

## Message Text

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45

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /012 W  
----- 004475

R 060830Z OCT 75  
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1554

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF MSG DETACHMENT

REF: A) STATE 229895; B) CONAKRY 1970, DECEMBER 73; C) CONAKRY  
0594, APRIL 74 (ALL NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RENEWED OFFER TO ASSIGN MSG DETACHMENT  
CONAKRY. AFTER CAREFUL RECONSIDERATION IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S  
PRIORITY CONCERNS AND RECENT INCIDENT, I CONCLUDE THAT ASSIGNMENT  
MSG DETACHMENT IS STILL NOT DESIRABLE IN VIEW US BILATERAL  
RELATIONS WITH GOG AND BOTH POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL ENVIRONMENT  
OF CONAKRY.

2. DESPITE SOME SLIGHT RELAXATION OF ATMOSPHERE IN PAST 18 MONTHS,  
CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED REFTELS (B) AND (C) REMAIN VALID.  
ADDITION OF SIX-MAN UNIT WOULD INCREASE SIZE OF EMBASSY STAFF  
BY 40 PERCENT. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT US INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED  
BY KEEPING OUR PRESENCE HERE TO BARE MINIMUM. THIS HAS BEEN MAJOR  
FACTOR IN CONSIDERATION OF INCIPIENT AID PROGRAM, WHICH I HAVE  
INSISTED BE LIMITED, ESPECIALLY REGARDING NUMBER OF AMERICAN PER-

SONNEL ASSIGNED. U.S. ALREADY HAS LARGEST WESTERN OFFICIAL  
PRESENCE. WITH ADDITION OF MSG ATTACHMENT, WE WOULD DWARF ALL  
OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES, INCLUDING NEWLY OPENING FRENCH, FRG AND  
JAPANESE EMBASSIES, WHOSE ARRIVAL WE WELCOME PARTLY BECAUSE IT  
DIFFUSES WESTERN PRESENCE.

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3. PRESENCE OF ARMED US SECURITY DETACHMENT IN CONAKRY (EVEN IN

CIVILIAN CLOTHES) WOULD BE KNOWN IMMEDIATELY, NOT ONLY IN WESTERN CIRCLES, BUT IN MUCH LARGER EASTERN COMMUNITY, TO SAY NOTHING OF GUINEANS THEMSELVES. ALL SORTS OF UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS WOULD ARISE. ADDITION OF MSG UNIT WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS (THERE ARE MANY) TO FAN LATENT SUSPICIONS REGARDING US INTENTIONS, INCLUDING CHARGES OF US INVOLVEMENT IN ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES.

4. I DOUBT THAT GOG WOULD AGREE TO POSTING DETACHMENT HERE, EVEN IF I WERE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO PRESIDENT TOURE REGARDING RECENT INCIDENT AND COULD PLACE REQUEST IN THAT CONTEXT.

5. APART FROM POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, A 40 PERCENT INCREASE OF AMERICAN STAFF WOULD ENTAIL ENORMOUS ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS, AN ENLARGED LOCAL SUPPORT STAFF AND PERHAPS ANOTHER AMERICAN ADMIN POSITION. HOUSING IS PROBABLY NOT AVAILABLE. WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE HOUSING FOR SMALL AID COMPLEMENT. OTHER COUNTRIES OPENING MISSIONS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THEY MUST BUILD. WOULD NEED MORE VEHICLES. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE VIRTUALLY ALL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMABLES MUST BE IMPORTED.

6. WHILE AS FORMER MARINE I HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR DEDICATION, COMPETENCE AND ADAPTABILITY OF MSG PERSONNEL, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT UNUSUAL LACK OF FACILITIES FOR RELAXATION AND DIVERSION WOULD POSE MORALE DIFFICULTIES WHICH UNFRIENDLY SOVBLOC AND GUINEAN ELEMENTS WOULD SEEK TO EXPLOIT.

7. RECENT INCIDENT UNDERLINES NEED FOR TIGHTER SECURITY. MISSION IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH RSO TO REVISE PROCEDURES TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO EMBASSY BUILDING AND SEVERELY CONTROL ACCESS TO SENSITIVE AREAS. RSO AND TSO PROVIDED VALUABLE ASSISTANCE ON RECENT VISIT; RSO IS SCHEDULED RETURN CONAKRY THIS WEEK FOR MORE INTENSIVE SURVEY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH COOPERATION ALL AMERICAN STAFF WE CAN REDUCE POSSIBILITIES OF NEW INCIDENT. I FULLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS, BUT ASSIGNMENT MSG DETACHMENT IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM. WILL REVIEW THIS MESSAGE WITH RSO AND INVITE HIM TO MAKE ANY SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 06 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** ASEC  
**To:** STATE  
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